



CATASTROPHE APPALLING

People Dazed by Terrible Disaster.

HEARTRENDING SCENES

Greatest and Most Appalling Accident in the History of American Mining.

BODIES IN TERRIBLE CONDITION

Fearfully Crushed, Dismembered and Blackened and Burned Beyond Recognition Are the Corpses of the Ill-Fated Miners Who Met Death in the Mines.

MONONGAH, W. Va., Dec. 7.—With unabated energy, five rescuing parties are working from every possible point to enter and explore Mines Numbers Six and Eight of the Fairmont Coal Company, a subsidiary of the Consolidated Coal Company of Baltimore, where a terrific explosion of black damp occurred yesterday, are this morning putting forth every effort to reach the 315 men whom they have every reason to believe are still in the mine, dead or alive, although there is scarcely a hope entertained that a single one of the 400 or more men who went into the mine yesterday morning has survived the terrific explosion and the poisonous gas with which the mines filled immediately after the death dealing crash.

Eighty five bodies have so far been brought to the surface and the dozen undertakers from this and surrounding towns who were on duty all night, by daylight had these bodies washed and made as presentable as possible in an improvised morgue, into which one of the mine buildings has been converted.

With dawn of day there began a heart-rending march up and down the aisles along which these bodies have been laid, by sobbing wives and mothers and sweethearts, orphaned children and strong men, each seeking a near relative or beloved friend.

There are between 5,000 and 6,000 inhabitants in the mining town of Monongah and it is believed that in this entire population there are not a score of persons who have not either a near relative or a close friend numbered among the victims of the disaster. The people of the town are stunned by the catastrophe. They had long regarded these mines as practically immune from the dangers so common to the coal mining industry. The plant of the company was provided with every device for the protection of life and the equipment was considered the most modern and complete outfit used in the production of bituminous coal.

Last night hundreds of men stood about the entrance of the two mines. They said nothing but when approached, and asked a question they would give way to their emotions and often give way to tears. During the night few women were to be seen, but all day yesterday the women were the chief actors in most pathetic and heartrending scenes. They crowded the sides of the hills overlooking the ill-fated mines and cried and wailed. As the day advanced they became almost crazed through grief and suspense.

One woman pulled out her hair, hand-saws at a time, another tore all the skin from both of her cheeks with her finger nails.

Some lay down on the frozen ground and cried themselves to sleep. In this condition many were carried to their homes nearby without awakening.

The rescuing parties penetrated Mine Number Six about 3,500 feet before they

came upon the first of the dead. A majority of the corpses will, it is believed, be found about a mile further back.

It is hardly possible that all the bodies will be recovered for several days. The 400 men were working in a territory one mile square. It will be days before a thorough search of all of this area can be made, as the searching parties advance they must clear away the debris. The explosion wrecked over 600 mine cars and these choked the entrance on all sides. A peculiar and remarkable feature is that notwithstanding the force of the explosion very little of the mine roof was wrecked. By those who witnessed it the explosion was likened to the discharge of a cannon. Every movable object shot with terrific force through the mine. At the entrance of Mine Number Eight a concrete power house was completely demolished. A piece of concrete weighing fully 1,000 pounds was blown clear across the West Fork river, landing on the side of a hill. In a radius of a half mile not another piece of concrete can be found. Great holes were torn in the hill on either side of the entrance of No. 8. Mine cars were crushed as though made of paper and a huge steel tippie was blown apart. On all sides electric light wires were thrown to the ground and many persons narrowly escaped death from these in the rush from the mine following the explosion. The Fairmont and Clarkburg Traction Company's cars passed within ten yards of the mine entrance and a large car crowded with passengers miraculously escaped being blown into the West Fork River. All the passengers were stunned by the terrific concussion. The mine officials state that forty per cent of the victims are Americans.

Fifty physicians are at or near the mines attending members of the rescuing party, many of whom have been overcome and needed medical attention and ready to succor any who may be brought

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CANNON VS. GOMPERS

Speaker of House Expresses His Sentiments.

UNIONISM HAS BEEN VEHICLE

For Progress Toward Better Conditions For Wage Earners—Pays Compliment to Gompers as an Organizer—Bears No Enmity Toward Noted Labor Leader.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Cannon today expressed his sentiments toward organized labor and its leader, Gompers, with respect to the latter's campaign for his (the Speaker's) defeat, the occasion being a call on him by a committee of local plate engravers, with a set of resolutions commending the Speaker for his legislative work on behalf of the plate workers, presented by the chairman of the delegation. The reply of Cannon, after expressing gratification, entered into an informal discussion of "one-man political leadership" of organized labor. He said while he bore no enmity toward the president of the American Federation of Labor, he did not believe union men, as American citizens, would ever accept dictatorship over their votes. That if he were a craft worker he would ally himself with a trade union because unionism has been the vehicle for all progress toward better conditions for wage earners, but he would hold his fealty above the right of any leader to direct. He paid a high compliment to the ability of Gompers as an organizer and expressed himself highly sensible of the work done by him within the functions allotted to him as a labor leader and as the president of the American Federation of Labor in behalf of the working man and the country. He made it plain that for his part he would pursue his own ideas in legislative matters irrespective of Gompers' opposition to some of them. He said that in some things he knew Gompers had misrepresented to the two million men composing the organization which he leads; that his (Cannon's) latest re-election was a decisive verdict.

KING OSCAR LIES DEAD

Aged Swedish Monarch Succumbs to Illness.

SUBJECTS ARE GRIEVED

Crowds Waited Patiently in the Rain in Front of Royal Palace.

CROWN PRINCE GUSTAVUS KING

Surrounded by Members of His Family and Officials of His Court and Cabinet Sweden's Monarch Passes Into the Unknown.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 8. —Oscar II, King of Sweden, died at an early hour this morning. The King has been suffering for several weeks from a complication of diseases brought on by weakness of his heart and kidneys. He was nearly 80 years old and is succeeded by his eldest son, Gustavus, who on Wednesday last, was formally appointed regent, owing to the dead monarch's extreme illness.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 7.—The following bulletin regarding King Oscar's condition was given out at 10 o'clock tonight: "The King to all appearances passed a painless day. There is no essential change in his strength and his respiration is regular."

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 7.—Although the theatres are open the crowd, numbering thousands, patiently waited in the pouring rain in front of the palace and testified to the popular sympathy for the aged monarch whose life is slowly ebbing. Physicians administered strong stimulants and made an apparently successful effort to reduce pain. However, they could accomplish very little more than bringing the patient to momentary consciousness. The monarch remained throughout the day in a semi-comatose condition. The condition of the King is such that his physicians state his

recovery is impossible although there are slight hopes of keeping the spark of life burning until morning. He is surrounded by his family, and members of his court and cabinet. Bishop Billing, of Lun, summoned by special train, is praying at the bedside.

Oscar II, King of Sweden, was born January 21, 1829. He was the son of Oscar I, and grandson of Marshal Bernadotte. He was married in 1857 to Princess Sophia, of Nassau, and has had four sons, the eldest of whom is the Crown Prince Gustavus, born in 1858, and who was married in 1881 to the Princess Victoria of Baden, and has three sons, born in 1882, 1884, and 1889, respectively. The eldest son of Prince Gustavus is Prince Gustavus Adolphus, who was married in 1905 to Princess Margaret of Connaught, and has a son born in 1906. The King's other sons are: Prince Oscar, born 1859, who was married to Lady Edda Munck, one of his mother's maids of honor, and relinquished his rights to the throne; Prince Carl, born in 1861 and married in 1907 to the Princess Ingeborg, second daughter of the King of Denmark, and Prince Eugene, born in 1865. The King has a niece, Louise, married to the King of Denmark. The royal family comes from Napoleon's Marshal Bernadotte, a Frenchman, who was elected heir apparent to the crown of Sweden in 1810 and became King in 1818.

HOP GROWERS MEET.

Action Taken Looking Toward a Protective Organization.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 7.—A meeting of prominent hop growers was held here today and the preliminaries are practically completed looking toward the organization of the hop growers' protective association. No information is given out as to what officers will be elected or what will be the scope of the association. The small growers are holding aloof preferring to depend upon individual resources to market their crops at a profitable figure. It is said speeches were made strongly denouncing the brewers because of the market of the new crop being but six cents and but little more than two cents for old crops it being charged the brewers were using substitutes for hops. The intention of the promoters scheme is to organize the growers of California, Oregon and Washington and the association will aim to command the hop output of the world, market the crops of members and look after interests generally.

BONDS FOR COAST.

Pacific Coast banks subscribing for Panama bonds are: First National Bank of Lewiston, Mont., \$100,000 at \$104.25; Traders' National Bank of Spokane, \$100,000 at \$103; Santa Rosa National Bank of Santa Rosa, Cal., \$112,500 at \$103. The largest subscribed for over a half a million were by the following banks: National Bank of Commerce of St. Louis, Mo., \$2,500,000 at \$103.01; Mechanics' National Bank of New York, \$100,000,000 at \$102.13; National City Bank of New York, \$600,000 at \$102.65.

ROOSEVELT CRITICIZED

Action is Denounced for Sending Troops.

DECIDE TO ASK CONGRESS

Federation of Miners Will Ask for Congressional Investigation.

FREEDOM FROM UNION MINERS

Mine Owners Will Make a Determined Struggle to Free Goldfield From Union Domination—Many Offers Made of Men to Work the Mines.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 7.—At the meeting of the executive committee of the Western Federation of Miners in this city today it was agreed to levy an assessment upon each member of the organization for the benefit of the Goldfield strikers. The possibility of securing Congressional investigation of Roosevelt's action in sending troops to Goldfield was discussed and it was practically decided to bring the matter to the attention of Congress.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 7.—"The action of the President in sending troops to Goldfield is the result of a prepared conspiracy between the Wall Street interests and Governor Sparks," declared Acting President Mahoney after the executive session of the Western Federation of Miners held here today. He declared there was no need of such action; that it was unprecedented and that some ulterior motive was responsible for the outrage. Haywood, the secretary-treasurer said the mine owners were responsible for the strike and that any trouble that followed must be laid at their doors. He said the Los Angeles story, that he had instigated the strike, was a fabrication as when he left Goldfield the miners and operators had reached an agreement, which the operators later violated.

GOLDFIELD, Dec. 7.—Encouraged doubtless by the presence of Federal troops at Goldfield, the Goldfield Mine-owners' Association held a meeting this afternoon and tonight gave out the statement in which it is openly said that members of the association have decided to make a determined struggle to free Goldfield of union domination and make this an open camp. The statement of the purposes of the association is a direct and unequivocal thrown-down gauntlet to the Western Federation of Miners. The officers of the association refused to say if any steps have already been taken to reopen the mines, which now lie idle and are rapidly filling with water, but stated that many telegrams had been received hourly offering men and that within 38 hours the mines could be opened with the same number of men as formerly worked in them. One concern in San Francisco offered to send a thousand men at an hour's notice. The officers of the association say however that in their belief there is enough men in the camp who will leave the union to make importation of men unnecessary and they are looking for these men to make application early in the week. The mines are being severely damaged by inactivity.

NEW YORK REFORMS.

Eastern Metropolis up Against "Blue Sunday" Laws.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—A "Blue Sunday" is promised New York tomorrow. The literal enforcement of the old but

not seriously regarded status, under new interpretation, will deprive New York's millions from any form of public entertainment for 24 hours at least, perhaps for many Sundays to come. The orders for strict enforcement of Justice O. Gorman's recent decision regarding the closing of all places of amusement on the Sabbath was issued today by Police Commissioner Bingham. Even baseball on suburban lots is prohibited. The only place in Greater New York where the bright lights will shine is in Brooklyn where the managers of five moving picture shows and a skating rink secured temporary injunctions restraining the police from interfering with their business. Even religious entertainments held for the purpose of keeping boys and young men off the streets are prohibited. Music in hotels and restaurants will not be disturbed.

BRYAN CHIEF GUEST.

Enthusiastically Received by the People of His Home State.

OMAHA, Dec. 7.—William J. Bryan was the chief guest at the dollar dinner of the Dahliman Democratic Club, 1200 being present. After the banquet the doors were thrown open and about 3000 persons availed themselves of the opportunity to hear the speeches of the evening. The enthusiasm with which Bryan was received exceeded any demonstration ever given by the people of his own state. For the first time he addressed a Nebraska audience since he announced his willingness to accept the Democratic nomination. The speech followed the lines of his Washington address. Bryan replying to references of his candidacy for the presidential nomination said he would accept if he was satisfied the rank and file of the party wished him to again lead its forces.

TESTIMONY DAMAGES

Witness in Power's Trial Tells of Conspiracy.

RELATES THE CONVERSATION

Implicates Powers, Governor Taylor and Several Other Prominent Men—Saw Powers Give Youtsey the Key to the Secretary of State's Office.

GEORGETOWN, Dec. 7.—Wharton Golden, a witness for the prosecution in the trial of Caleb Powers, gave the most damaging testimony against Powers yet brought out. He told of an alleged conspiracy, implicating Powers, Governor Taylor, Finley Howard, Youtsey, John L. Powers and others. He related numerous conversations that he had with Powers about the killing of Goebel. The day Goebel was shot, Golden said he was in the adjutant-general's office where he saw "Tallow Dick" Combs, Mason Herkersmith, Garder and Wallace, the first two being negroes. Combs was making threats against Goebel declaring, "I could kill Goebel now, damn him." Witness later saw John L. Powers give Youtsey the key to the Secretary of State's office and Powers shortly after told him Goebel was to be killed that day. Golden protested against the killing that day. Powers said "You need not worry I gave him the wrong key." Golden afterwards saw Powers exchange the keys with Youtsey. Golden did not know who fired the shots.

PANAMA BONDS ALLOTTED.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 7.—Secretary Cortelyou today announced the allotments of Panama bonds sold to the various National Banks throughout the United States. The list of purchasers made public did not include individual buyers but merely National Banks which acquired the bonds for the purpose, presumably, of increasing their circulation. The average price paid was a fraction over \$103. The allotments were made in sums of ten thousand and upwards, hundreds of banks taking the bonds at their bids in sums up to several million dollars.



Uncle Sam—I wish you'd do something to amuse me, Coxe. "Gen." Jacob Coxe's army will soon start. The army will travel by special train and will also carry a big circus tent, in which to hold meetings.—News Item.